

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMERCIAL
LINGCOD SEASON OUTSIDE DISTRICT CLOSURE
E.O. 2-GF-E-12-12**

The directed commercial fishing season for lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus* in the Outside District of the Prince William Sound (PWS) Management Area and adjacent waters of the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) will close effective 12:00 noon August 16, 2012.

Preliminary harvest reports indicate that the 25,300 pound GHL for lingcod in the Outside District of the PWS Area and adjacent waters of the EEZ will be achieved. Therefore, in order to manage for the GHL, the directed commercial fishing season for lingcod in the Outside District of the PWS Area and adjacent waters of the Federal EEZ will close effective 12:00 noon August 16, 2012. Landing requirements for the PWS Area specify that vessels with lingcod on board prior to the directed season closure must offload their product within 24 hours following closure of the directed lingcod season, unless the amount on board is permissible under retained bycatch restrictions.

After closure of the directed season, lingcod may be retained as bycatch up to 20 percent of the directed harvest aboard a vessel. The 20 percent limit includes the total weight of all bycatch species aboard the vessel as described in regulation 5 AAC 28.070 (b), with the exception of Pacific cod which may be retained at a separate 20 percent bycatch level (5 AAC 28.267 (i)). Retained lingcod must measure at least 35 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail and must be delivered with the head attached and with the vent and one-inch area forward of the vent intact as evidence of gender. After July 1, lingcod taken incidentally by drift gillnet gear operated for salmon consistent with applicable state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed.

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